

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13179 231627Z

43 41

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OC-05 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02

PER-01 USSS-00 /078 W

----- 103783

O P 231545Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6779

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13179

FRANKFURT FOR FRDCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY DETENTION OF EMBASSY DRIVER

1. SHORTLY BEFORE NOON TODAY OCTOBER 23, ALI RAAD, DRIVER OF
EMBASSY VEHICLE CARRYING UNCLASSIFIED AIR POUCHES IN FROM AIR-
PORT WAS BROUGHT TO A HALT BY ANOTHER CAR AND KIDNAPPED AT
GUNPOINT BY THREE ARMED MEN. AN AMERICAN LADY C&R
CLERK MISS BILLIE JEAN KING WAS ALSO IN VEHICLE BUT WAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 13179 231627Z

IGNORED BY ABDUCTORS. AFTER SOUNDING THE ALARM OVER

EMBASSY EMERGENCY RADIO NETWORK, SHE DROVE VEHICLE BACK TO EMBASSY.

2. ACCORDING TO RAAD AND KING'S PRELIMINARY REPORTS, CAR HAD ENTERED HERETOFORE SAFE AREA BEYOND NORMALLY DIFFICULT AIRPORT ROAD ONTO SEASIDE CORNICHE WHEN SMALL VEHICLE FORCED THEM TO A STOP AND TWO ARMED MEN RAN OVER TO DRIVER, PULLING HIM OUT OF HIS SEAT. DRIVER, WHO IS A MOSLEM, WAS BLINDFOLDED IN BACK SEAT OF CAR AND DRIVEN TO SECTION OF TOWN WHERE HAPPENS TO LIVE. HE WAS TAKEN OUT OF CAR PRACTICALLY IN FRONT OF APARTMENT HOUSE WHERE HE LIVES AND WAS RECOGNIZED BY HOUSE SUPERINTENDENT. WHEN SUPERINTENDENT TOLD MEN HE KNEW HIM, MEN RELEASED DRIVER SAYING HE WAS LUCKY. DRIVER COULD NOT IDENTIFY HIS CAPTORS.

3. DRIVER SAYS HE WAS PUNCHED ONCE AND HIT WITH BUTT OF MACHINE GUN IN THE RIBS AND ARM WHEN HE TRIED TO REMOVE BLINDFOLD WHILE HE WAS IN BACK SEAT OF CAR WITH ABDUCTORS. HE IS PRESENTLY BEING EXAMINED AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL FOR POSSIBLE CRACKED RIB. OTHERWISE SEEMS IN REASONABLY GOOD SHAPE. WE SHALL HAVE HIS FULLER STORY LATER.

4. KING BROUGHT CAR AND POUCHES BACK TO EMBASSY. FOLLOW-UP CAR HAD BEEN PREMATURELY DISMISSED AT AIRPORT BECAUSE MISS KING AND DRIVER THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE AT AIRPORT VERY LONG TIME AND COULD USE ANOTHER EMBASSY CAR WHICH WAS DUE OUT THERE AS FOLLOW CAR IN THE EVENT THEY MADE RETURN RUN WITHOUT FOLLOW CAR.

5. AS DIRECT RESULT THIS INCIDENT, RSO HAS CONTACTED AND OBTAINED AGREEMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES TO PROVIDE ESCORT PROTECTION FOR EMBASSY COURIER VAN TO AND FROM AIRPORT. RSO ALSO LOOKING INTO FURTHER POLICE PROTECTION FOR ALL AMERICAN VEHICLES GOING TO AND FROM AIRPORT ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS.
GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, FOREIGN SERVICE LOCAL EMPLOYEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT13179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750368-0949
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751026/aaaaawsd.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCCT
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEMPORARY DETENTION OF EMBASSY DRIVER
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, LE, (RAAD, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006